

8.3 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade

The datestamp used by the 1st Light Horse Brigade was manufactured in Australia prior to the departure of the 1st Convoy and used throughout their training in Egypt and Gallipoli. This cds was the only datestamp used for the duration of the whole war. It's usage is detailed from the following locations listed in the table below:

Country	Location	Opened	Closed
Egypt	Maadi Camp	20.12.1915	5.1916
	Romani area	24.5.1916	10.11.1916
Palestine	Rafah area	1.1.1917	6.9.1917
	Beersheba area	1.11.1917	4.11.1917
	Ludd	16.11.1917	
	Mulebbis area	23.12.1917	
	Jerusalem area	18.2.1918	
	Beitum	5.3.1918	16.3.1918

Country	Location	Opened	Closed
Palestine	Bethlehem	17.3.1918	
Transjordan	Ghoreniye area	28.3.1918	10.5.1918
Palestine	Solomon Wells	18.5.1918	
	Jericho	14.7.1918	21.7.1918
	Hebron	23.7.1918	26.8.1918
	Jericho	9.1918	
Transjordan	Amman	30.9.1918	
Egypt	Zagazig	3.3.1919	11.3.1919

No 4 Squadron, 1st Battalion Imperial Camel Corps - Maadi Camp, Egypt

June 1916



A real photo postcard of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Henley (on the camel facing the line) speaking to the men of the No. 4 Company, 1st Battalion, Imperial Camel Corps which was assigned to the 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade.

Note: In 1915, Henley, a wealthy building contractor and politician volunteered to go to Egypt as a commissioner for the Citizens War Chest Fund. Organising the distribution of comforts from Alexandria, he personally accompanied the goods to their destinations. He was gazetted a Lieutenant Colonel to overcome objections to civilians entering the battle zone.

8.3 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade

Maadi Camp, Egypt

Period of use: December 1915 - May 1916

An envelope from one of the 48 Military Cross recipients at Gallipoli



An envelope cancelled by the 1st Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 2.5.1916 when the Brigade was located at the Maadi Camp in preparation for the Battle of Romani.

Note: This envelope was written by Lieutenant George Harris of the 1st Light Horse Regiment who was awarded the Military Cross at Gallipoli for conspicuous gallantry for the feint at Dead Mans Ridge on the 7.8.1915. He served throughout the war and returned to Australia on the 23.6.1919.

Romani area, Egypt

24 May - 10 November 1916



A photograph endorsed "Romani" on the reverse from a soldier in the 1st Light Horse Regiment.

Although the soldiers are unidentified, this image is from a small group of four photographs including one of Brigadier General Charles Cox, commander of the 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade.

8.3 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade

The Battle of Romani

The Australian 1st Light Horse Brigade occupied Romani on the 28.5.1916, a small town 37km east of the Suez Canal and began to entrench their positions. Between the 3rd and 5th August, the Central Powers charged for their last ground attack to take the Canal. The victory by the 52nd (Lowland) Division and the Anzac Mounted Division over a joint Ottoman and German force, which had marched across the Sinai, marked the end of the Defence of the Suez Canal campaign.

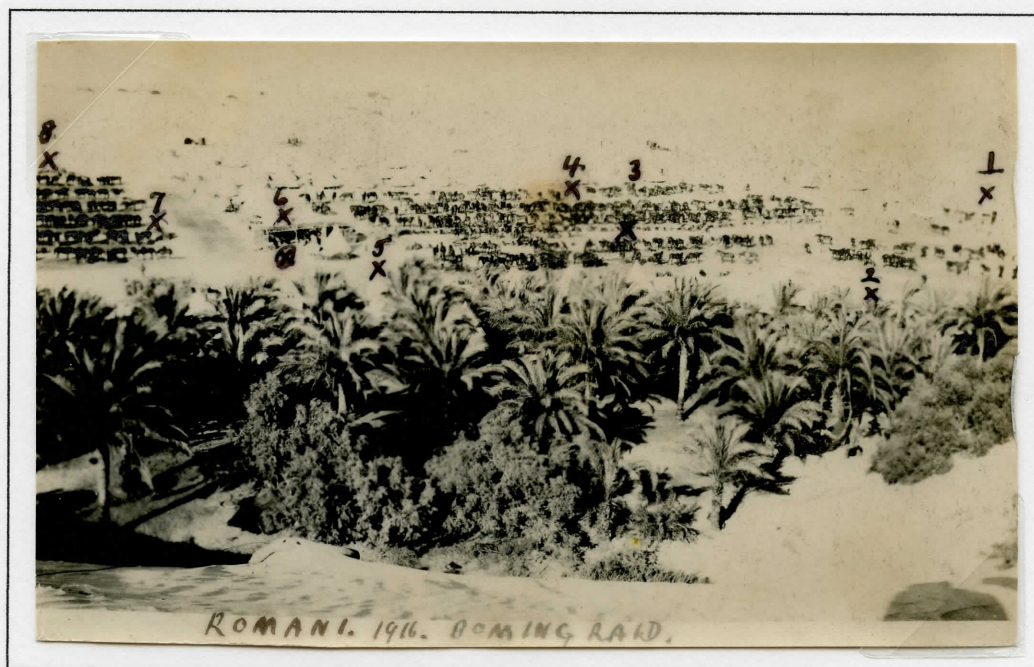
Romani area, Egypt

Period of use: 24 May - 10 November 1916



A picture postcard cancelled with the 1st Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 17.8.1916 when the Brigade had just won the Battle of Romani.

The soldier writes "Just a note to say I got through all right but lost a lot of my mates."



A photograph of Romani in 1916 after a bombing raid. On the reverse it is headed "1st Light Horse Brigade" and describes the Army Service Corps dump where the tents that have been marked with crosses that were destroyed by a German air raid.

It also describes some of the drills that the Light Horsemen performed. "The 2nd Reg made a record here. Alarm given, rig packed up, saddled, dressed, ration issued and galloped out of camp. 8 Minutes."

8.3 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade

Katia Well (near Romani), Egypt

9 August 1916

Although this group of photos would fall under the Proud category of the "Romani area", the conflicts at Katia and Bir-el-Abd were fought as separate battles by the 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade.

After the Australian Light Horse victory at Romani on the 4.8.1916, the Turks conducted an orderly retreat to their base camps at Katia and Bir-el-Abd led by their German commander General Kress von Kressenstein.



A photograph endorsed "*Katia Well*" on the reverse from a soldier in the 1st Light Horse Regiment.

Bir-el-Abd , Egypt

9 - 12 August 1916

A photograph endorsed "Turks buried at Bir-el-Abd, killed 9/8/16"

Bir-el-Abd was abandoned by the Turks on the 12.8.1916 after fierce fighting by the ANZAC Mounted Division which attacked on the 9th. This was the first substantial victory by the Allies against the Ottoman Empire in WW1, ending the Defence of the Suez Canal campaign.



The four photographs on this and the following page are from a small group of four photos from a soldier of the 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade. They are specifically identified by the photo of Brigadier General Charles Cox, commander of the 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade.

8.3 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade

Maghaba, Egypt

23 December 1916

After the Turkish retreat from El Arish, they marched to the fortifications at Maghaba, about 25 miles south east. There, the garrison increased from about 500 soldiers to over 1,400 troops. The ANZAC Mounted Division attacked on the 23.12.1916 and the battle was over within a day. With the victory at Maghaba, the occupation of El Arish was secure.



A photograph endorsed "*Brig Gen Cox at Zachariah Well*".

Brigadier General Cox led the 1st Light Horse Brigade throughout the war and particularly distinguished himself at Maghaba and during fighting in the Jordan Valley in July 1918.

Despite his achievements, he was generally not thought to be suitable for command at a higher level. After the war, he continued with the militia until the early 1920's.



Although this photograph is captioned "Turkish and German prisoners at El Arish" on the reverse, it is more likely that this photograph was taken at Maghaba.

Note: When the ANZAC Mounted Division entered El Arish on the 21.12, the town had been abandoned, with the Turks fortifying the town of Maghaba twenty five miles away. After the Battle of Maghaba on the 23.12., over 1,200 prisoners were captured. This photograph would represent the Turkish and German prisoners taken during this conflict.

8.3 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade

Rafa area, Palestine

Period of use: 6 January - 6 September 1917

An envelope from one of the 48 Military Cross recipients at Gallipoli



An envelope cancelled by the 1st Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 6.1.1917 when the Brigade was located in the Rafa area in Palestine.

Note: This envelope was written by Lieutenant George Harris of the 1st Light Horse Regiment who was awarded the Military Cross at Gallipoli for conspicuous gallantry for the feat at Dead Mans Ridge on the 7.8.1915.

Deiran, Palestine

14 November 1917



These are two rare photographs of Deiran, which was occupied by the 1st Light Horse Brigade on the 14.11.1917, just fourteen miles from Jerusalem. The photo on the left shows the orange groves looking up towards the town, whilst the one on the right features the soldiers just after they entered the town with no opposition from the Turks.

8.3 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade

Jaffa, Palestine

Early December 1917



A photograph of the seaside port of Jaffa where the 1st Light Horse Brigade rested from the 6.12.1917 to prepare for the assault on Jerusalem. It had been captured by the New Zealanders in late November.

Mulebbis area, Palestine

Period of use: 23 December 1917 - January 1918



An envelope with the 1st Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 8.1.1918 when the Brigade was located at the Mulebbis area in Palestine. At the left is the British type censor "PASSED/BY/CENSOR/3004" unusually in black (Firebrace Type CM 3).

The envelope is written by Sapper Arthur Sullivan who survived the war and returned to Australia on the 16.5.1919.

This period of use is not recorded by Proud

8.3 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade

Jerusalem area, Palestine

18 February - early March 1918



A photograph of the supply depot at Belan, seventeen miles west of Ramallah, near Jerusalem.

Ghoreniye, Transjordan

Period of use: 28 March - 10 May 1918



A Field Service Postcard cancelled by the 1st Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 8.5.1918 when the Brigade was stationed in the Ghoreniye area in Transjordan.

Note: The card was written by Private John Fargher of the 1st Light Horse Machine Gun Company, who throughout the campaign was sick and repeatedly in and out of hospital. He embarked for home on the A64 "Demosthenes" on the 26.1.1919. It appears that he committed suicide by jumping off the ship at sea on the 13.2.1919 before reaching home.

Use of the 1st Light Horse datestamp during this period is rare

8.3 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade

Solomon Wells, Palestine

Period of use: 18 May to July 1918

An envelope with the 1st Light Horse Brigade datestamp of the 10.7.1918 when the Brigade was stationed between Solomon Wells and Jericho in Palestine.

This period of use is not recorded by Proud



Hebron, Palestine

Period of use: 23 July - 26 August 1918

An envelope from one of the 48 Military Cross recipients at Gallipoli



An envelope cancelled by the 1st Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 26.8.1918 when the Brigade was located At Hebron in Palestine.

Note: The envelope was written by Lieutenant George Harris of the 1st Light Horse Regiment who was awarded the Military Cross at Gallipoli for conspicuous gallantry for the feat at Dead Mans Ridge on the 7.8.1915.

8.3 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade

The Second Battle of Amman

The Second Battle of Amman was fought on 25.9.1918 during the Third Transjordan attack as part of the major set piece offensive known as the Battle of Megiddo. The defences at Amman had been greatly strengthened since the First Transjordan attack on Amman in March 1918, by the construction of a series of redoubts that were reinforced by machine guns.

The Australian units comprised the 1st and 2nd Light Horse Brigades, with the main attack pressed home by the New Zealand Mounted Rifles. The co-ordination by all the Light Horse Brigades led to the capture of Amman. With the city captured, the 1st Light Horse Brigade advanced along the railway to the north of Amman and captured several guns and hundreds of prisoners who were attempting to retreat.

Amman, Transjordan

Period of use: October 1918 - February 1919



An envelope addressed to Cairo with the 1st Light Horse Brigade datestamp of the 7.12.1918 when the Brigade was located near Amman, Jordan, before embarking to Zagazig, Egypt.

This period of use is not recorded by Proud

A photograph endorsed on the reverse "Turkish Redoubt, Mafraq" which is located 80km north of Amman. This photo of the Turkish positions would have been taken just after the war had finished, probably in early 1919.



8.4 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade - Details

The second type of Australian 1st Light Horse Brigade datestamps was used by the Details office which amalgamated with the Advanced Base Post Office in late August 1916. Its usage is detailed from the following locations listed in the table below:

Country	Location	Opened	Closed
Egypt	Maadi	20.12.1915	20.6.1916
	Tel-el-Kebir	7.1916	5.8.1916
	Moascar	6.6.1916	22.8.1916

Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt

Period of use: Mid July - 5 August 1916



A scarce registered envelope addressed to Alexandria with the 1st Light Horse Brigade Details cds dated the 24.7.1916 when the Brigade Details post office was located at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt.

8.5 2nd Australian Light Horse Brigade

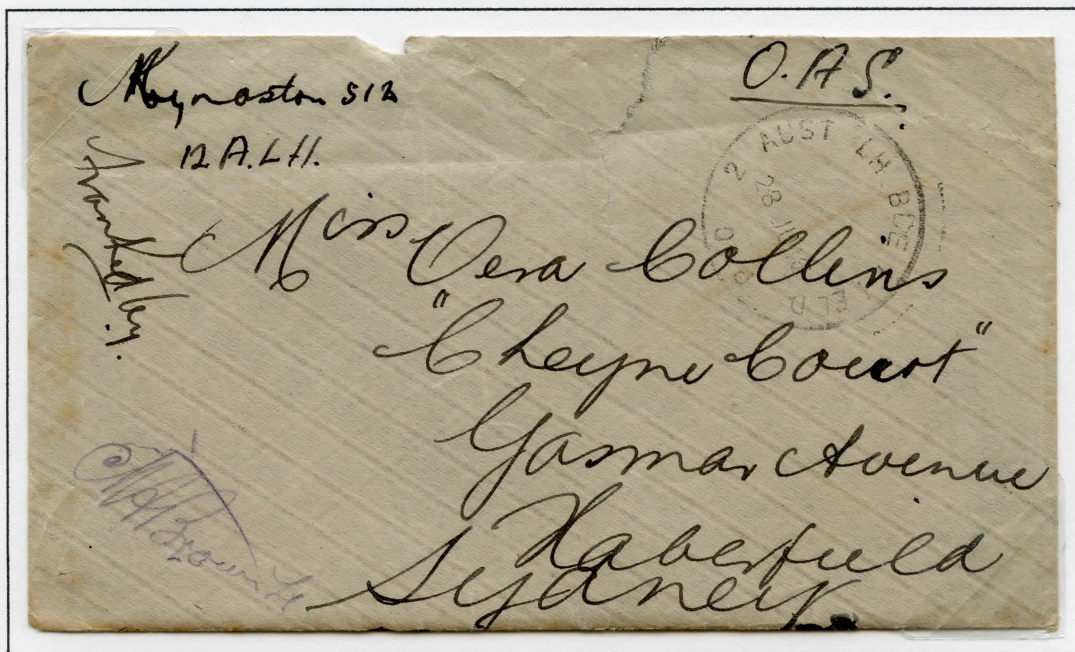
There were three types of Australian 2nd Light Horse Brigade datestamps used by the ANZAC Mounted Division during the campaign. Their usage is detailed from the following locations listed in the tables below:

Country	Location	Opened	Closed
Egypt	Maadi Camp	11.1.1916	12.4.1916
	Romani area	6.1916	30.9.1916
Palestine	Gaza area	3.1917	4.1917
	Rafa area	5.1917	14.8.1917
	Beersheba area	1.11.1917	4.11.1917
	El Arish	11.1917	1.1918
Palestine	Jerusalem area	2.1918	3.1918

Country	Location	Opened	Closed
Transjordan	Jordan Valley	26.3.1918	4.6.1918
Palestine	Jericho area		19.7.1918
	Jerusalem	23.8.1918	25.8.1918
	Jericho		1.9.1918
	Jerusalem	1.10.1918	3.10.1918
	Jericho	4.10.1918	14.11.1918
Egypt	Damanhour	31.3.1919	26.6.1919

Kantara, Egypt

Period of use: June - 30 September 1916



An envelope with the 2nd Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 28.6.1916 when the Brigade was at Davidah, four miles west of Kantara.

Note: The enclosed letter was written by a trooper from the 12th Light horse Regiment who writes "Excuse my writing but I have a biscuit tin for a table. We are waiting for the advance of the Turks against the canal. Things are very quiet here."

8.5 2nd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Romani area, Egypt

June - 30 September 1916

Air raids over the Romani area before the attack in August

In the preparation for the attack on Romani in August 1916, bombing raids from the German airforce were a common occurrence.

This photograph is of the "First line of the Aust L. H. Bgds were bombed June 1st 1916."



This another series of photographs dated the 1.7.1916. In this raid, 10 men were killed and 22 were wounded, whilst 30 horses perished.

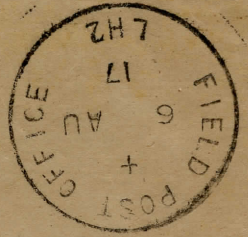
In the photograph above, it is captioned on the reverse that their camp is to the right of the tree line.

8.5 2nd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Rafa area, Palestine

Period of use: May - 14 August 1917

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

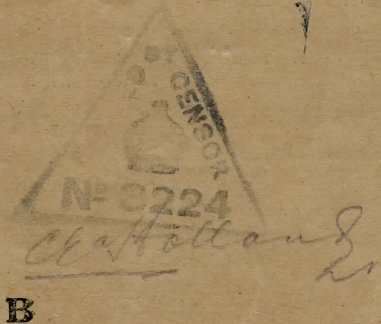


THE C.O.,

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS, A.I.F.,

130, HORSEFERRY ROAD,

LONDON, S.W.I.



B

An envelope cancelled by the 2nd Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 6.8.1917 when the Brigade was resting at Belah in the Rafa area after the Second Battle of Gaza.

El Arish, Egypt

Period of use: November 1917 - January 1918



An envelope addressed to Queensland cancelled by the 2nd Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 16.12.1917 just after the Battle of Beersheeba.

8.5 2nd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Jerusalem area, Palestine

Period of use: February - March 1918



An envelope addressed to Queensland with the 2nd Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 4.2.1918 when the Brigade was patrolling the Jerusalem area in Palestine. At the left is the British type censor "PASSED/BY/CENSOR/3222" in rose (Firebrace Type CM 3).

This period of use is not recorded by Proud



This photograph features the terrain that was met by the ANZAC Mounted Division on the way to Jerusalem.

On the reverse, it is captioned "Saris Judean Hills"

8.5 2nd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Occupation of the Jordan Valley

The occupation of the Jordan Valley began in February 1918. After the Capture of Jericho in February, the Australian units began patrolling an area of the Jordan Valley near Jericho at the base of the road from Jerusalem. Towards the end of March the first attack on Amman was launched from the Jordan Valley followed a few weeks later by the equally unsuccessful second attack on Shunet Nimrin and Es Salt at the end of April. During this time, the occupation of the Jordan was fully established and continued through the summer of 1918. The occupation ended in September with the Battle of Megiddo which consisted of the Battle of Sharon and the Battle of Nablus.

Jordan Valley, Transjordan

Period of use: 26 March - 4 June 1918



A British newspaper wrapper with the 2nd Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 2.5.1918 when the Brigade was in the Jordan Valley. The Turks had forced the withdrawal of Allied troops, including the 2nd Light Horse from Es Salt.

This period of usage in Transjordan is very rare.

A British newspaper wrapper cancelled by the 2nd Light Horse Brigade cds of the 2.6.1918 when the Brigade was in the Jordan Valley in Transjordan, prior to being withdrawn for rest at Wadi Hanein.

There is a straight lined unframed Brisbane "PASSED CENSOR" cachet in violet.

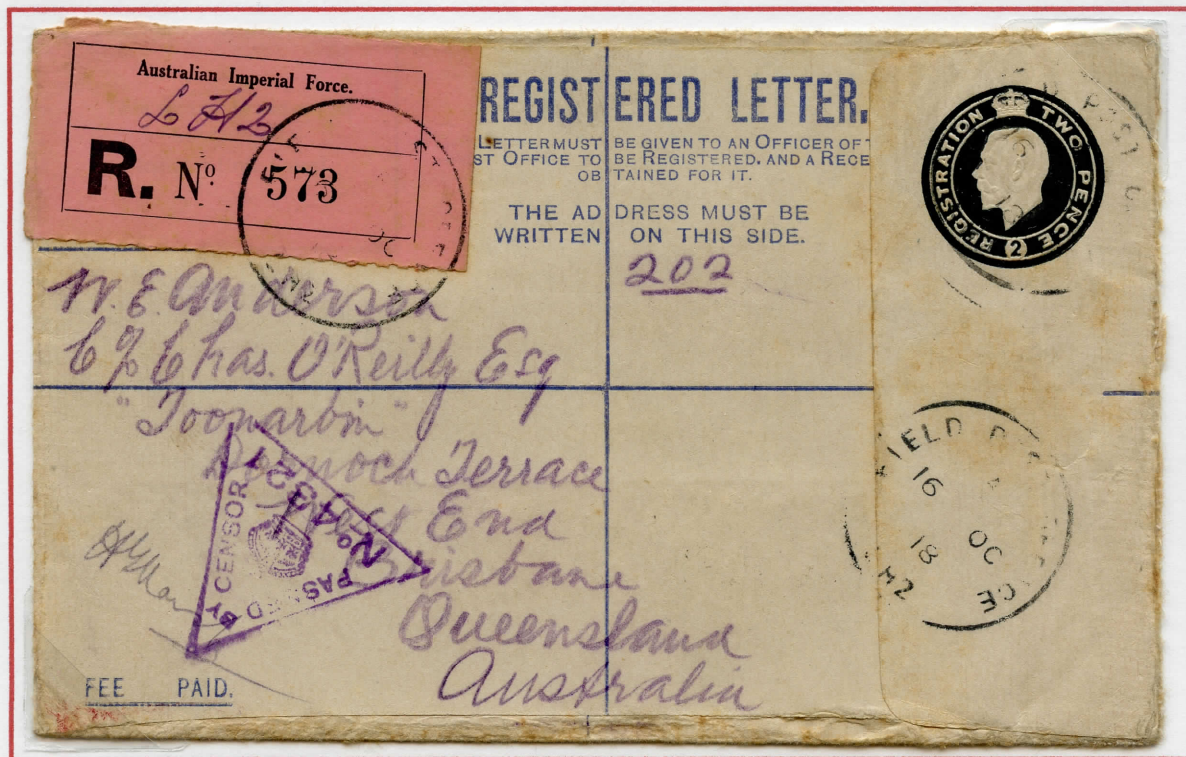
This period of usage in Transjordan is very rare.



8.5 2nd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Jericho, Palestine

Period of use: 4 October - 14 November 1918



A British Registration envelope with an A.I.F. pink registration label endorsed "LH2" and addressed to Queensland with the 2nd Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 16.10.1918 when the brigade was in Jericho, Palestine for a short time.

This period of use is not recorded by Proud



A British newspaper wrapper cancelled by the 2nd Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 2.11.1918 when the brigade was in Jericho, Palestine.

This period of use is not recorded by Proud.

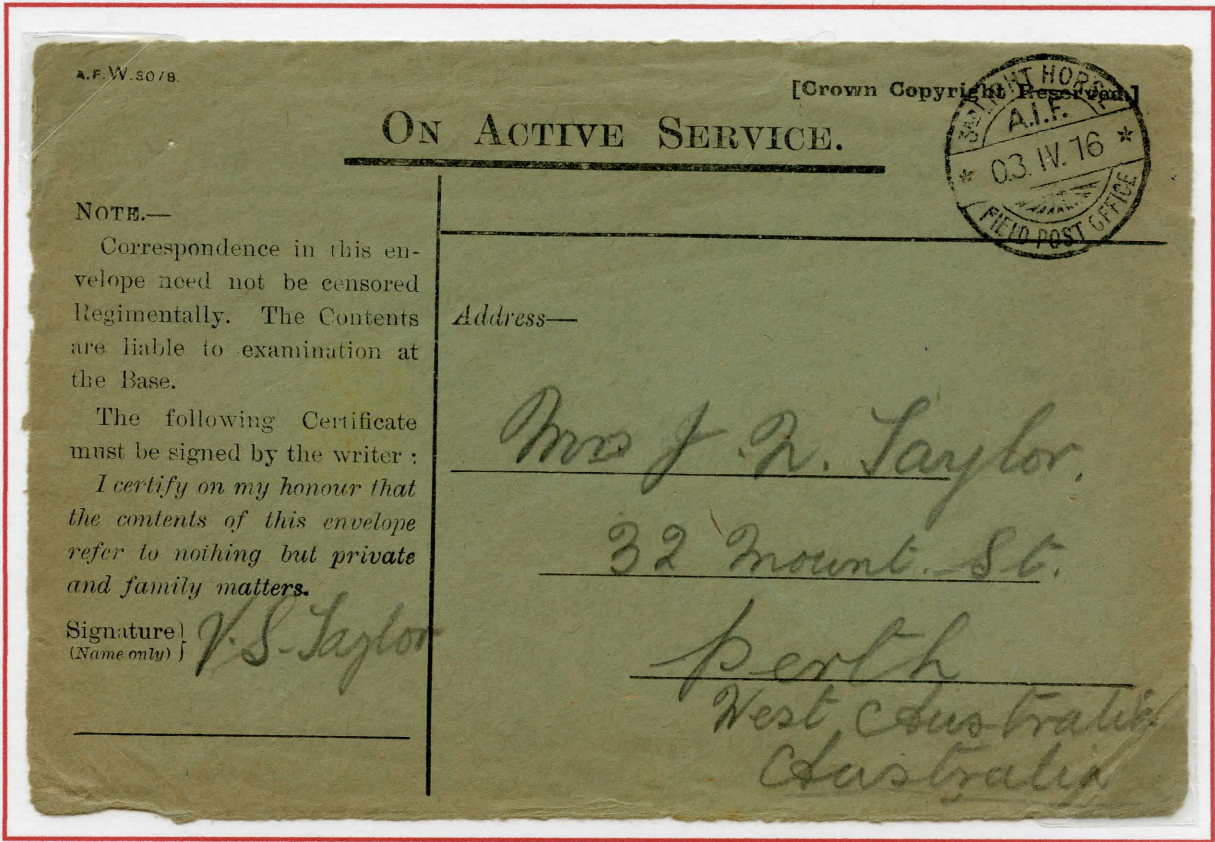
8.6 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

There were only one type of Australian 3rd Light Horse Brigade datestamp used by the ANZAC Mounted Division during the campaign. It left the Division in December 1916 and joined the Australian Mounted Division in January the following year. Their usage is detailed from the following locations listed in the table below:

Country	Location	Opened	Closed
Egypt	Maadi Camp	1.1916	4.1916
	Serapeum	9.5.1916	1.6.1916
	Patrolling Romani area	6.1916	8.1916
	Romani	2.9.1916	6.9.1916
	El Arish	11.1916	12.1916

Maadi Camp, Egypt

Period of use: January - April 1916



An Honour envelope addressed to Western Australia and cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 3.4.1916 when the Brigade was stationed at the Maadi Camp in Egypt before leaving for the defence of the Suez Canal.

This period of usage is not recorded by Proud

8.6 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Serapeum, Egypt

Period of use: 9 May - 1 June 1916



A real photo postcard dated the 30.5.1916 and written by Captain Arthur Clayton who was the medical practitioner allocated to the 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade. He writes:

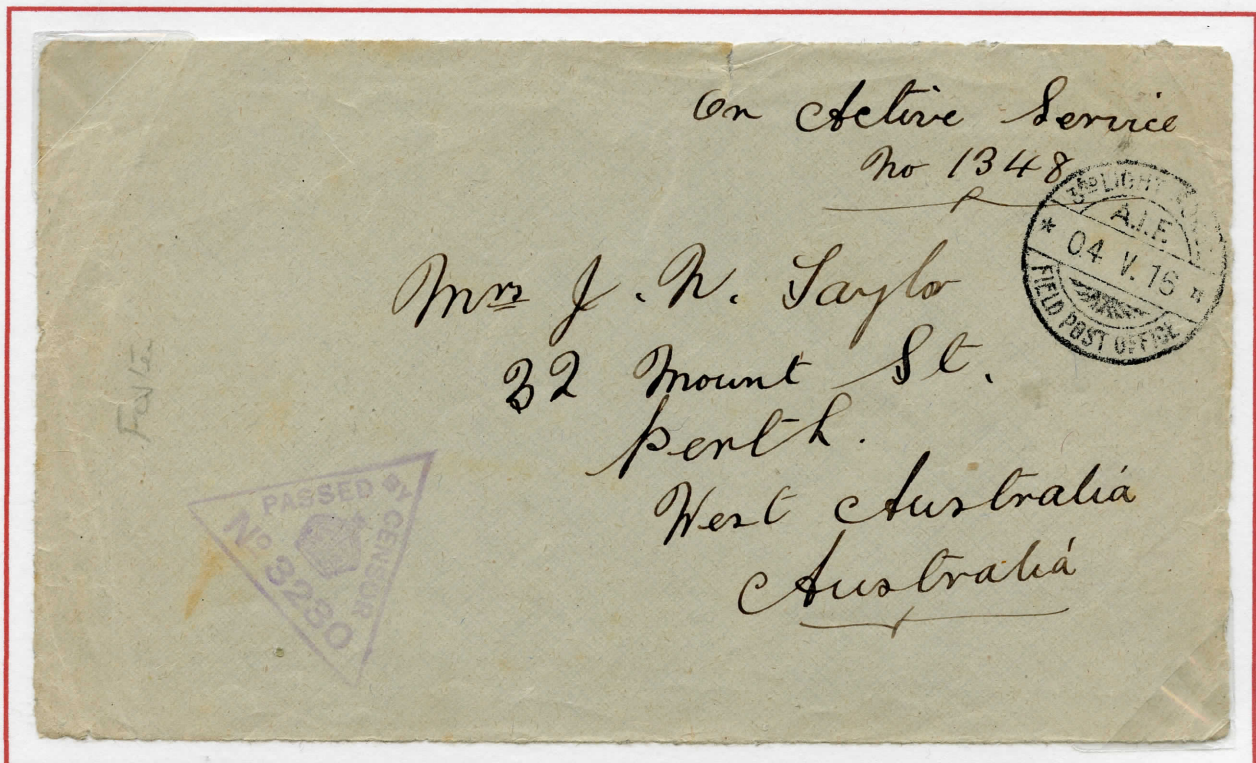
"Today is my last chance of using our P.O. in Egypt so I send this photo of a "cacolet". They are for bringing in sick wounded men from the trenches. The sand is too soft for the ordinary vehicles and we have not many sand carts...."

This postcard is dated the day before the 3rd Light Horse Brigade began to move over the Suez Canal towards Romani.

Captain Arthur Clayton was later awarded the Distinguished Service Order for operations in Ypres, France. He survived the war and returned to Australia on the 22.8.1919.

An envelope cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 4.5.1916. This datestamp was used by the Brigade at Serapeum in Egypt for the defence of the Suez Canal.

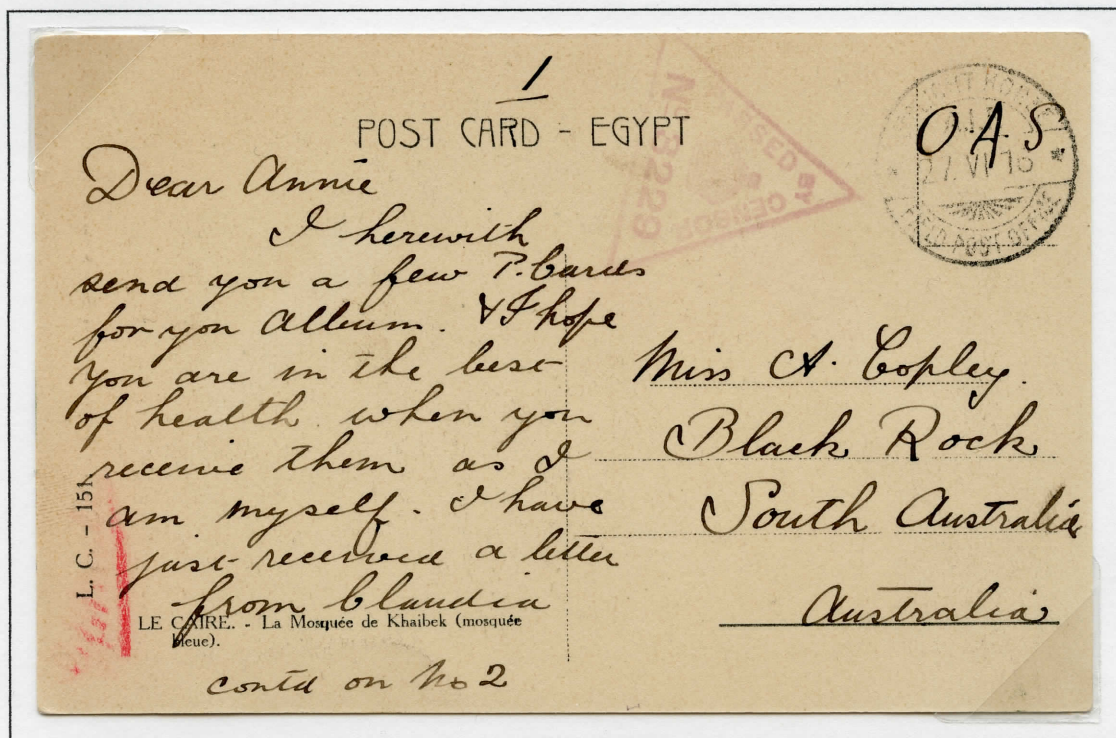
This envelope was written by Lance Corporal Victor Taylor of the 10th Australian Light Horse who was killed in action on the 23.12.1916 during the assault on the Turkish fortified position at Maghaba.



8.6 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Patrolling Romani area, Egypt

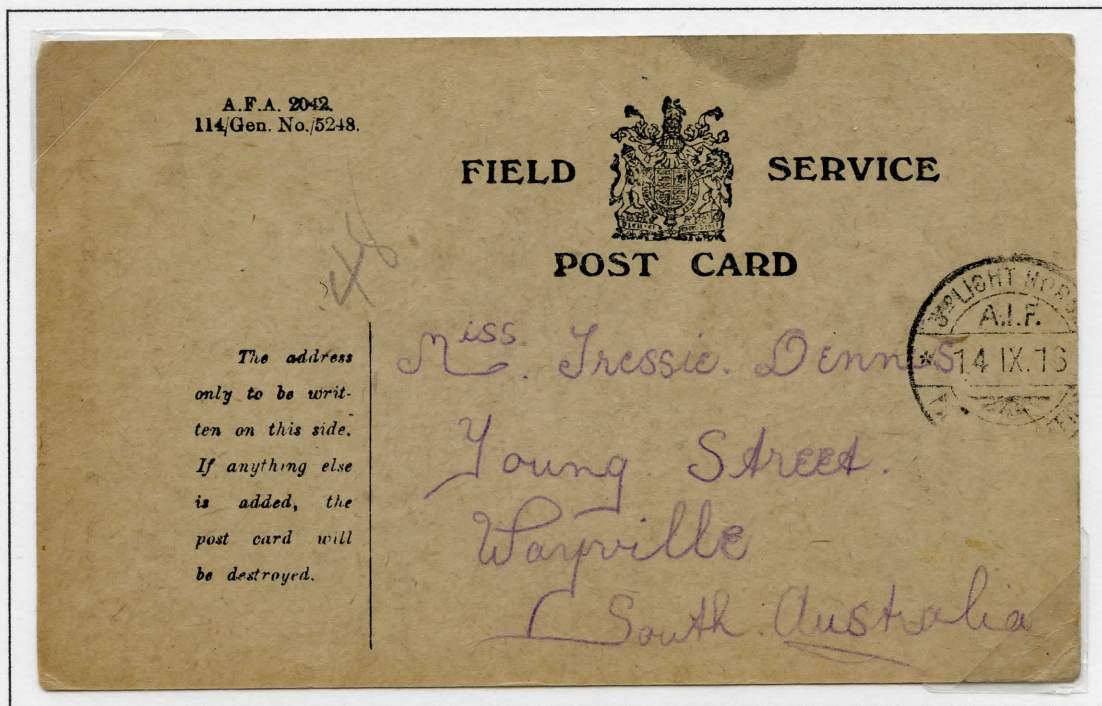
Period of use: June - August 1916



A postcard cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 26.6.1916 and written by Lieutenant Harold Copley when the 3rd Light Horse Brigade were patrolling the Romani area in preparation for the battle there in early August. During the war, Copley was transferred to the 2nd Field Artillery Division, ending the war with the rank of Major.

Romani, Egypt

Period of use: 2 - 14 September 1916



A Field Service Postcard cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 14.9.1916, just after the major Battle of Romani had been fought.

8.6 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

Gererat, Egypt

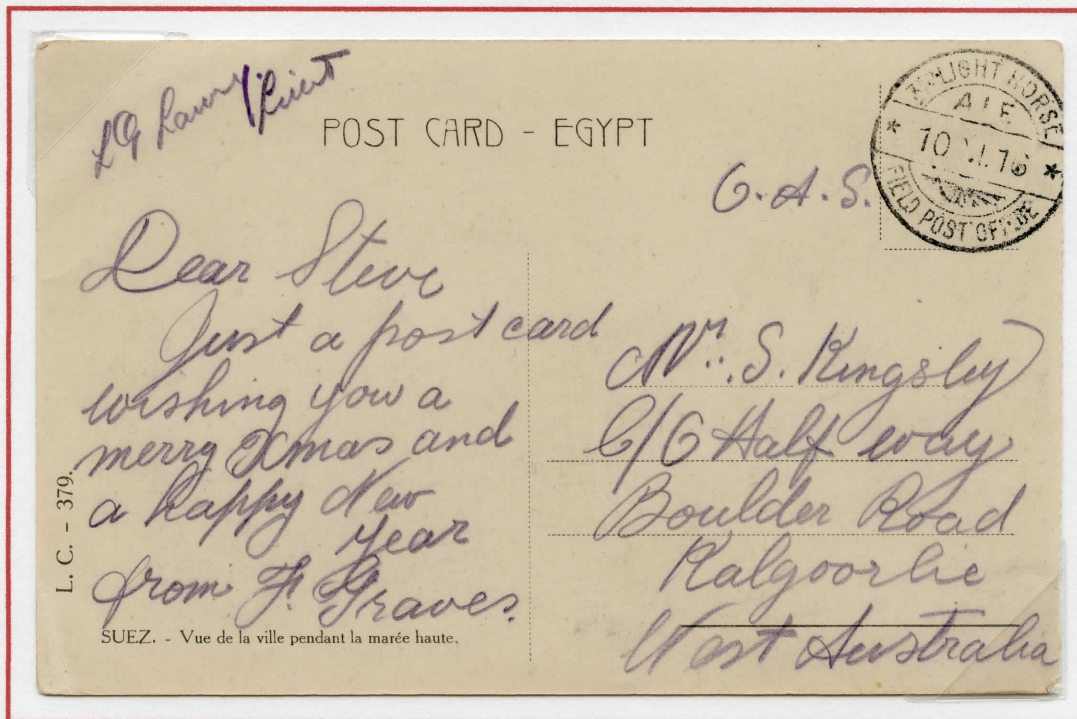
November 1916

A photograph endorsed on the reverse "Camp at Gererat". This camp was located 30km before El Arish and was used by the 3rd Light Horse in November 1916 in preparation for entering the city. The town is now named Bi'r al Jararat.



El Arish, Egypt

Period of use: November - December 1916



A postcard addressed to Western Australia and cancelled by the 3rd Light Horse Brigade cds dated the 10.11.1916. This datestamp was used by the Brigade between Romani and their arrival at El Arish on the 21.12.1916.

Note: This card was written by Private Frederick Graves of the 10th Light Horse Regiment who survived the war and returned to Australia on the 10.7.1919.

This period of use is not recorded by Proud

8.6 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

El Arish, Egypt

November - December 1916

After securing the Suez Canal in September 1916, General Murray advanced north across the Sinai desert to the borders of Palestine. On the 21.12.1916 the Light Horse Brigade entered El Arish, a coastal town which had been completely evacuated by the Turks.



This and the photograph below were taken by Lieutenant Howard Hahn of the 9th Light Horse Regiment. On the reverse is written:

"The advance on Raffia Redoubt. Egyptian border crossing the flooded wadi at El Arish, "C" Troop 9 L. H. Regt in foreground".



Another photograph by Lieutenant Hahn endorsed on the reverse *"Massai, near El Arish. Camping area of the 9th Regt"*.



A real photo postcard taken of Sergeant Howard Hahn of the 9th Australian Light Horse Regiment before he was promoted to Lieutenant.

It was taken in the studio of G. Massaour in Port Said before the Light Horse Campaign began.

Hahn was a keen amateur photographer and took many photos of the campaign in Palestine and Mesopotamia. Both these photographs would have been taken in December 1916.

8.6 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade

El Arish, Egypt

November - December 1916

This series of photographs were taken by a soldier after the ANZAC Mounted Division had entered El Arish. It was used as a railhead and base to push further in to the Sinai. Each of the photos are endorsed on the reverse.



"The New Zealand Brigade moving out to occupy El Arish"



"Railway yard and station, El Arish"



"Road, El Arish"



"Making a well for watering horses, El Arish"



"Engineers Dump, El Arish"



"Wrecked mine sweeper on Mediterranean, El Arish"